

Police yesterday prevent activists of "Amra Muktijuddher Santan" at Muktangan in Paltan from burning an effigy of IOJ Chairman Fazlul Haque Amini in protest at the demolition of Baul sculptures at the Zia International Airport intersection.

Baul Sculptures

FROM PAGE 1 of the Liberation War.

A police team tried to disperse the protesters and took away two effigies of Amini, which they brought to burn, and a banner of the organisa-

AMS Vice-president Gazi Md Shafiqul Islam and another activist were injured in a scuffle with the police. However, they staged a brief demonstration there.

The freedom fighters' sons and daughters demanded arrest and punishment of Amini on charge of sedition. They said he made antistate and anti-liberation remarks.

President of AMS Humayun Kabir said the sculptures are reflections of the country's Liberation War. So an attack on the sculptures is virtually an attack on the very existence of the country. He said the people of the country are pious but not blind and Islam does not permit any kind of

Meanwhile, Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, a cultural organisation, also faced police harassment at Doyel Chattar in the city when they were taking harmoniums and tables to the Central Shaheed Minar for a protest cultural programme.

Assistant General Secretary of Udichi Habibul Alam said police asked them to show a permission letter for holding the programme at the Shaheed Minar.

"The policemen said we will not be allowed to hold the cultural programme at the Shaheed Minar as we did not have a permission but we said we are not holding a political

programme," said Habib. The police later allowed them to

hold the programme. The cultural programme at the Shaheed Minar also had a discussion session where speakers demanded reinstallation of the Baul sculptures. The speakers said the people who killed people during the Liberation years."

War are now distracting the country men by distorting Islam. They also said Islam does not allow any kind of

extremism. Patriotic and Lalon songs were performed at the programme along with recitation of poems.

Vice-president of Udichi Golam Mohammad Edu presided over the discussion. Sammilito Sangskritik Jote General Secretary Golam Kuddus, Dhaka University Prof Niranjan Odhikary, Group Theatre Federation Secretary General Jhuna Chowdhury, and Udichi vicepresidents Badiur Rahman and Shamsuddin Ahmed also spoke

among others. Bangladesh Jubo Union formed a human chain on Comrade Mani Singh Road in the city demanding reinstallation of the statues at the proposed Lalon Square, Airport

intersection. Sammilito Shilpi Samaj yesterday arranged a painting programme in front of the Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University to protest against

the removal of the sculptures. A press release said Charon Sangskritik Kendra will form a human chain and hold demonstrations in front of the National

Museum at 4:00pm today. Meanwhile, Bimanbandar Gol Chattar Murti Protirodh Committee in a press release said the government would face misfortune if failed to declare the construction of a

Hajj Minar at the Airport intersec-

In the press release, signed by Maulana Nur Mohammad, publicity controller of the committee, said "We will wait until October 23 for the authorities to declare the construction of the Hajj Minar. If not declared... on October 24 from a meeting we will declare programmes that has not been heard of in 100

which in normal times are consid-

ered safe investments offering

modest returns, has frozen up in

recent weeks as the global financial

billion bailout package for its banks

while European governments have

also guaranteed inter-bank loans

worth more than a billion dollars to

President Cristina Kirchner

announced plans to nationalise 10

private pension funds holding 30

the international context in which

the G-8 countries and others are

seeking ways to protect banks,"

election. "The United States wants to

see a free, fair and credible election,

Union (EU) made it clear that they

will not send any poll observation

ment does not restore some civil and

political rights by relaxing or lifting

ambassador discussed Bangladesh

US relations which the adviser said

state of preparations for the upcom-

ing election on December 18, a

process to which the US is according

full support," Iftekhar told the

continuation of generalised system

tion' will be taken in light of 'per-

ceived national self-interest and in

discussion with other like minded

our partnership and cooperation to

raised the issue of emergency, the

foreign adviser said the Bangladesh

government had time and again

stated that it is an internal matter for

the country, and the people of the

Asked whether the ambassador

remain constant," he noted.

"The hearts of Bangladeshis are

He expressed happiness over the

The foreign adviser and the US

"We also talked about the current

the emergency beforehand.

will continue to be 'strategic'.

mission to Bangladesh if the govern

Unlike the US, the European

US election

We are taking this decision in

Meanwhile in Argentina,

The US last month unveiled a 700

crisis worsened.

stimulate lending.

Kirchner said

billion dollars in assets.

Recession fears

action on the global financial recession, which is likely to cause recession in... Britain, too," Brown said during his weekly questioning

session in parliament. Crucial data is expected to show on Friday that the British economy shrank in the third quarter after zero growth in the second. The technical definition of a recession is two straight quarters of negative eco-

nomic growth. In a speech late Tuesday, Britain's central bank governor Mervyn King said the financial crisis had squeezed the amount of money banks would lend to consumers and companies, at a time when high energy and food prices were also reducing disposable incomes.

The prospect of a sharp economic slowdown raises the chances that the British central bank will again cut interest rates, making sterling a less attractive investment than the euro or the dollar.

And an expectation of similar rate cuts in the 15-nation eurozone to spur economic growth forced the euro towards a near two-year low

against the dollar. There were also more signs of trouble in the emerging markets, with South Africa's rand falling to a six-year low against the dollar.

After Hungary's forint currency fell to a near two-year low point against the euro, the central bank in Budapest moved to stop further plunges by hiking up its key interest

rate by three points. "The escalation of the crisis has revealed or exacerbated existing vulnerabilities (in emerging markets) such as current account deficits that were ignored when times were good -- ie., capital was plentiful," said the New York-based RGE think-tank

in its latest newsletter. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called for developing nations to play a role in ending the turmoil, which was triggered by huge losses by global banking giants in mortgage-related securities and led to a collapse in market

"Developing countries like India are also affected by the crisis, and have to be part of the solution," he

The central Reserve Bank of always with their Kosovo brethren," India cut its lending rate for the first time since 2004 earlier this week, and Singh has conceded that the nation will face a "temporary slowdown" from "the ripple effects" of the crisis.

currency markets came despite new attempts by the US Federal Reserve to restore confidence to the fragile financial system.

In a bid to help troubled money market mutual funds, the Fed said it would make available up to 540 billion dollars (420 billion euros) for purchases of highly rated short-

The market for these assets, countrywill have to resolve the issue.

up 100MW power plant

Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco) will move to set up a 100 MW power plant to reduce load

will build the power plant in joint venture with a private company under the proposed public-private partnership (PPP) policy.

power sector, the power ministry recently finalised a draft PPP policy for power sector to create scope for private-public partnership investment to set up power plants to overcome generation crisis.

The draft policy is under process for the law ministry's vetting. After the vetting, the draft policy will be placed before the cabinet commit-

Bogra NGO

around Tk 500 crore deposited by

against the NGO on October 8, about 10 members of the organisation went to the house of Mahbubur Rahman, Puthia branch manager of FUS, at about 7:00pm on Monday night for getting back Tk7lakh they paid to the NGO.

When Mahbubur denied to pay them back saying he would appeal against the court verdict, they bear

Later, Mahbubur along with his henchmen swooped on the NGO members at Nimtala bazar at around 9:00pm.

They beat up the NGO members and also damaged five shops. Around 50 people were injured in the clash.

Of the wounded, 16 were admit ted to Puthia Health Complex and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. A case was filed against 19 people including Mahbubur. However, none had been arrested.

Local Govt

Chittagong University Tofail Ahmed have been made members of the commission for a three-year

approved the Local Government Commission Ordinance 2008.

The Local Government Commission will be an independent body, which will function independently in the jurisdiction of the constitution and the ordinance. All the local government institu-

tions across the country, which were under the direct control of the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperative, will come under the supervision of the commission. It will also have mon anyone before it.

the government to take actions against the accused officials and

War criminals

FROM PAGE 1

"From the very beginning of our forum's activities, we have been urging the caretaker government to prepare a list of the war criminals to bring them to book. But unfortu nately, we did not get any positive

In reply to a question Safiullah said the war criminals will be exposed to people and their punishment will be ensured.

political parties not to give chance to the war criminals to join their

Safiullah said within two or three days, the SCF leaders will visit Chapainawabganj and Pabna districts to create mass awareness

against the war criminals. Later, they will visit Faridpur, Chittagong and Comilla with the

same objective, he said. To a question on BNP's alliance with Jamaat, he said they will hold opinion-exchange meeting with the nationalist party and ask them

to quit the war criminals. DU white panel

The white panel teachers made the decision after a three-hour-long meeting at the teachers' lounge at the arts building last night.

Seven departments . Department of English, Bengali, Economics, Mass Communication and Journalism, International Relations, Women and Gender Studies and Linguistics -- under the arts and social science faculties have introduced some conditions that disqualify the madrasa students from admission to those departments.

The meeting, however, condemned the attack on the VC office by madrasa students demanding cancellation of the university authorities'

Tuesday, the chairmen of four out of the seven departments, said they decided to introduce the conditions to maintain academic standards not to exclude madrasa students from the admission process.

However, Prof Amin, also the dean of the arts faculty, said academic standards would not be hampered if the madrasa students get admitted to those departments.

"I don't believe that the academic standards would be hampered. Madrasa students can do well in those departments," Prof

8 brands face test

FROM PAGE 1

by the commerce ministry. The Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) yesterday demanded immediate testing of the remaining brands of milk pow-

Asking consumers to boycott the eight brands, CAB leaders also urged the government to keep sale of the eight brands suspended until credible results are in hands.

Save the Environment Movement (SEM) yesterday urged the government to take punitive actions against companies that imported melamine tainted powder milk.

Addressing a press conference, SEM leaders also demanded cancelling of licences of responsible companies, formulation of a consumer protection act, strengthening of BSTI, and testing of all imported food items before mar-

The government is trying to brush the matter under the rug by forming a probe committee by the ministry of commerce instead of health," said SEM leader Syed Abul Maksud, adding that the government is trying to protect the interest of businesses instead of the people.

The chemistry department of Dhaka University (DU) found presence of melamine beyond tolerable level, testing samples of all the eight brands of powdered milk provided to them by BSTI.

But tests performed by BSTI and a private laboratory, Plasma Plus, found contamination only in one

After DU reconfirmed its results, the government on Tuesday sent samples of the eight brands to Fao for retesting by foreign labs with international accreditation.

According to BSTI scientists, presence of up to .001mg (milligram) of melamine per gram of milk consumed is considered safe for children, and .0025mg per gram of milk for adults.

On October 16, the government advised consumers to refrain temporarily from consuming the eight brands of powdered milk

"But there are a large number of milk powder brands on the market, especially the baby formulas. Now we're in confusion about which one is safe as the government is saying nothing," said Rifat Sultana of Uttara, an official of a private

Asked why the government is not making any statement about the other brands, Health Adviser AMM Shwakat Ali said, "It's the responsibility of BSTI, and they have already been told to do that. When his attention was drawn

to the public confusion regarding which brands are safe, the adviser said, "BSTI should let people know which brands are not tainted with melamine. But when The Daily Star con-

tacted BSTI DG Azmal Hossain, he

Taliban militants

FROM PAGE 16 paramilitary trooper.

Khan said an "edict" had been issued to execute the captured trooper. He did not say when the trooper would be executed.

The fighting forced local residents to stay indoors as the Taliban took control of the area. Security forces too were confined to their bunkers.

The troops targeted militant positions with rockets and mortars from their bunkers this morning, residents said.

In two separate incidents yesterday in Kabal sub-district of Swat, security forces killed five Taliban militants in a gunbattle and foiled a bid by a would-be suicide bomber to attack a check post.

The bomber's explosive-laden vehicle blew up when the troops fired at it, officials said.

Advisers meet

FROM PAGE 1

election under the state of emer-

will trust the results anymore. When asked about the number

tainted, three -- Yashili 1, Yashili 2, and Sweet Baby 2 -- are infant sures to ensure nominating qualified

candidates for the national election. "We told them to ensure better-DOHS Community Center.

Meanwhile, tests in Taiwan found minor doses of the industrial chemical melamine in milk powders produced in China by the European food giant Nestle, and those products are being with-

milk powders produced by Nestle in Heilongjiang Province in northeastern China were found to contain .3 to .85 ppm (parts per million) of melamine. Nestle is a

Expressing concerns regarding the implication of melamine contaminated milk products on infant and child nutrition and health, UN agencies Fao, WHO and Unices yesterday said they are ready to support Bangladesh government for further testing of powdered milk samples by internationally certified laboratories.

In a joint statement yesterday, the agencies suggested immediate actions to ensure supply of safe dairy products.

Ghani

chairperson called me to attend a meeting after the election. Otherwise

Hawa Bhaban's "fantastic" and "appreciable" role in collecting constituency-based data and monitoring party lawmakers activities.

About the proposed meeting between Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, he said there is no negative side to the meeting and it may rather bring something good.

Ghani has played a vital role for the Khaleda-led BNP in the days following the imposition of the state of emergency.

Replying to a question, he said there is a possibility of post-election violence if people fail to cast their votes in a free and fair manner.

leader Saifur Rahman's house on October 29 last year, he said he was invited over for tea only. He claimed that he was forced to sign on a blank paper there.

"I went there being invited for tea. We were asked to sign on a blank paper. Although we disto sign the paper," Ghani said.

A few people beyond the party were present at that meeting, he

256 workers shifted

Police had earlier seized 35 sacks of fake vouchers from BTCL Dhaka offices through which a huge amount of money was drawn by the corrupt staffs.

"The system should be corrected. Every institution, be it government or semi-government, must be made more accountable, says Tac Chairman Justice Habibur Rahman Khan.

On deployment of 122 people for installing a single pan, he ironically said, "It made me think that BTCL was constructing another Taj Mahal in Khulna.'

"This is outrageous. It must have been done in connivance with each other. It has to be confirmed whether the auditors were also involved or not. And it must be intendent of police (ASP), who was worked out why the government awarded the president medal, has mechanism failed to check such graft," commented Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Chairman Prof Mozaffer Ahmad.

"How come deploying such a huge number of people for tasks like installing a toilet pan or transferring files goes unnoticed. It cannot happen so easily. There must be work orders and tenders describing the work. And what about the post audit?" he asked. The Tac has examined report of

an investigation conducted by the telecommunications ministry into BTCL budget forgery and found that over Tk 14 crore was misappropriated by the engineering department in 2005-06 and over Tk 11.66 crore by the revenue department in between 2001 and 2007. The commission also found the

investigation by the telecom ministry was "incomplete, insufficient, wrongly done and biased" as the committee included members, who themselves were punished for committing corruption by BTCL. Besides, the investigation did not result in taking action against

the accused as the probe body

included BTCL staffs. "We'll later reveal how deep corruption was rooted in this public department. We're still digging into it," said Tac member Maj Gen

(retd) Manzur Rashid Chowdhury. On fake budget, Manzur Rashid said in a fiscal year Tk 14,400 was made Tk 20.14 lakh by putting 20 on the left of the actual figure. The same group made another budget of Tk 1.13 lakh to Tk 21.13 lakh by adding 2

"Though the investigators found evidence of these graft incidents, they did not proceed except mentioning names of some lowranked BTCL employees," he Meanwhile, an assistant super-

confessed to amassing wealth "How come such a corrupt official is awarded the presidential medal? Honour must be given based on honesty," the Tac chief said. He did not comment whether Tac would recommend stripping

the police officer off the medal. As many as 314 people includ ing 253 government officials, 28 of their wives and 24 low-profile businessmen have so far applied to the commission for voluntary disclosures. The Tac completed hearing 18:

of them who admitted to having ill gotten wealth worth only about Tk 21.53 crore. Of the total amount, Tk 10.62 crore was deposited to the state exchequer as of yesterday, while

the rest could not be deposited as

ACC or NBR is still to release the

frozen bank accounts of the graft-

accused. Of the applicants, 126 applied through ACC, 167 through NCC three through the courts and 18

government already invited them

to the talks. Talking to reporters after his meeting with Khaleda last night, Hossain Zillur expressed hope that today's dialogue would be able to dispel the differences between the government and the political parties on issues including holding of the

He said the BNP chief asked the government through the advisers to lift the emergency as part of a move to create an election-friendly atmo-

The advisers suggested that the BNP leadership take effective mea-

qualified representatives in next parliament as it is a demand of the time," Zillur told reporters at the press briefing held at the Banani Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff,

LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal, Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and Communications Adviser Ghulam Quader accompanied Zillur during the meeting with Khaleda that lasted for about two hours.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan assisted the party chairperson at the unscheduled meeting starting at 7:40pm.

The two BNP leaders could not be contacted for information about the

Hossain Zillur said, "We also talked about post-election affairs including an effective parliament...The BNP leaders said these issues are important but they would be settled through discussion in parliament."

Terming the meeting an informal courtesy call, he said the BNP leaders told them that they are very much interested to take part in the election.

Asked about the government's stance on lifting the emergency, Zillur said the government is not stubborn on the issue. "We are taking decisions considering voters' safety so they can cast votes freely. We hope these issues will be solved through discussions," he said.

Today's talks with the AL wil

feature issues including withdrawal

of all "false" cases against AL chief

Sheikh Hasina and her permanent release, withdrawal of the state of emergency and deferment of upazila Re-demarcation of parliamentary constituencies, role of polling agents and television channels, especially BTV, during the national

elections will also come up for discussion at the talks. Talking to journalists at his Nam flat in the city yesterday, Syed Ashraf expressed hope to reach consensus on all issues relating to holding a free, fair and credible election through

discussions with the government. About the unresolved issues, he said the issues have to be resolved

Hefurthersaid, "Ithink the nation is getting prepared for the election and no one will be able to foil the

between the government and the AL was held on July 3 but it ended inconclusively with both sides agreed to hold further talks. The government's first round talks with the BNP on October 14 also

ended inconclusively where the

party placed a seven-point demand

The first round of dialogue

including lifting of the state of emer-HC hears

submissions before the court also

Advocate ABM Nurul Islam, a senior lawyer of the SC who filed this writ petition, told the HC bench yesterday that as per Article 65(2) and 119 of the Constitution, the EC's main duties are to hold elections to parliament and to the post of president. And then it can go for holding

local government elections. But keeping aside its main duties, the commission has taken steps for other purposes, he said.

The petitioner argued that the EC went for some unnecessary activities including dialogues with political parties. Now, people are not sure if parliamentary polls will

be held on December 18. He mentioned that he had filed the writ petition with the HC hoping for directives to the EC to exercise its powers to hold the parliamentary elections, and not for challenging any law or rules of the EC.

The EC had invited objections to the re-demarcation of parliamen tary constituencies in spite of the rule following his writ petition pending with the HC. And the EC action in this regard was mala fide, he argued. Advocate Nurul Islam also said

delimitation of constituencies

could be done on the basis of birth

registration of people that the gov-

ernment completed on March 31.

This would be fair since the last census of population was done in 2001 when the number of people was only 10 crore. Earlier on the day, the HC bench reprimanded Dr Shahdeen Malik, another counsel for the EC, for making comments to the media on

the pending writ petitions regarding

delimitation of constituencies. On May 12, upon the writ petition of Advocate Nurul Islam, the HC issued a rule asking the government and the EC to explain why the move to redo the demarcation of constituencies should not be declared illegal and unconstitu-

Lawyers said 11 writ petitions regarding the re-demarcation are pending with the HC.

Alaska funded

FROM PAGE 16

As governor, Palin justified having the state pay for the travel of her daughters Bristol, 17; Willow, 14; and Piper, 7 by noting on travel forms that the girls had been invited to attend or participate in events on the governor's schedule.

But some organizers of these events said they were surprised when the Palin children showed up uninvited, or said they agreed to a request by the governor to allow the children to attend.

Several other organizers said the children merely accompanied their mother and did not participate. The trips enabled Palin, whose main state office is in the capital of Juneau, to spend more time with her children.

"She said any event she can take

her kids to is an event she tries to attend," said Jennifer McCarthy, who helped organize the June 2007 Family Day Celebration picnic in Ketchikan that Piper attended with her parents.

State Finance Director Kim Garnero told The Associated Press she has not reviewed the Palins' travel expense forms, so she could not say whether the daughters' travel with their mother would meet the definition of official busi-

On Aug. 6, three weeks before Republican presidential nominee Sen. John McCain chose Palin his running mate, and after Alaska reporters asked for the records, Palin ordered changes to previously filed expense reports for her

In the amended reports, Palin added phrases such as "First Family attending" and "First Family invited" to explain the girls attendance. "The governor said, 'I want the purpose and the reason for this

travel to be clear," said Linda

Perez, state director of administra-

daughters' travel.

tive services. When Palin released her family's tax records as part of her vice presidential campaign, some tax experts questioned why she did not report the children's state travel reimbursements as income.

The Palins released a review by a Washington attorney who said state law allows the children's travel expenses to be reimbursed and not taxed when they conduct official state business.

Taylor Griffin, a McCain-Palin campaign spokesman, said Palin followed state policy allowing governors to charge for their children's travel. He said the governor's office has invitations requesting the family to attend some events, but he said he did not have

them to provide. In October 2007, Palin brought daughter Bristol along on a trip to New York for a women's leadership conference. Plane tickets from Anchorage to La Guardia Airport for \$1,385.11 were billed to the state, records show, and mother and daughter shared a room for four nights at the \$707.29-pernight Essex House hotel, which

overlooks Central Park. The event's organizers said Palin asked if she could bring her

Alexis Gelber, who organized Newsweek's Third Annual Women & Leadership Conference, said she does not know how Bristol ended up attending. Gelber said invitees usually attend alone, but some ask

if they can bring a relative or friend. Griffin, the campaign spokesman, said he believes someone with the event personally sent an email to Bristol inviting her, but he did not have it to provide. Records show Palin also met with Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Goldman Sachs representatives and visited the New York Stock Exchange.

In January, the governor, Willow and Piper showed up at the Alaska Symphony of Seafood Buffet, an Anchorage gala to announce winners of an earlier seafood competi-"She was just there," said James Browning, executive director of

Alaska Fisheries Development

Foundation, which runs the event.

Griffin said the governor's office received an invitation that was not specifically addressed to anyone. When Palin amended her children's expense reports, she listed a role for the two girls at the function

"to draw two separate raffle tick-In the original travel form, Palin listed a number of events that her children attended and said they were there "in official capacity helping." She did not identify any specific roles for the girls.

In July, the governor charged the state \$2,741.26 to take Bristol and Piper to Philadelphia for a meeting of the National Governors Association. The girls had their own room for five nights at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel for \$215.46 a night, expense records show.

Expense forms describe the girls' official purpose as "NGA Governor's Youth Programs and family activities." But those programs were activities designed to keep children busy, a service provided by the NGA to accommodate governors and their families, NGA spokeswoman Jodi Omear said. In addition to the commercial

flights, the children have traveled dozens of times with Palin on a state plane. For these flights, the total cost of operating the plane, at \$971 an hour, was about \$55,000, according to state flight logs. The cost of operating the state plane does not increase when the children join their mother.

The organizer of an American Heart Association luncheon on Feb. 15 in Fairbanks said Palin asked to bring daughter Piper to the event,

and the organizer said she was surprised when Palin showed up

with daughters Willow and Bristol as The three Palin daughters shared a room separate from their mother at the Princess Lodge in Fairbanks for two nights, at a cost to the state of

\$129 per night. The luncheon took place before Palin's husband, Todd, finished fourth in the 2,000-mile Iron Dog snowmobile race, also in Fairbanks. The family greeted him at the finish When Palin showed up at the

also Willow and Bristol, organizers had to scramble to make room at the main table, said Janet Bartels, who set up the event.

luncheon with not just Piper but

"When it's the governor, you just make it happen," she said. The state is already reviewing nearly \$17,000 in per diem payments to Palin for more than 300 nights she slept at her own home, 40 miles from her satellite office in

Anchorage. Tony Knowles, a Democratic former governor of Alaska who lost to Palin in a 2006 bid to reclaim the job, said he never charged the state for his three children's commercial flights or claimed their travel as official state business.

Knowles, who was governor from 1994 to 2002, is the only other recent Alaska governor who had schoolage children while in office. "There was no valid reason for

the children to be along on state business," said Knowles, a supporter of Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama. "I cannot recall any instance during my eight years as governor where it would have been appropriate to claim they performed state business."

Knowles said he brought his children to one NGA event while in office but didn't charge the state for their trip.

In February 2007, the three girls

flew from Juneau to Anchorage on

Alaska Airlines. Palin charged the state for the \$519.30 round-trip ticket for each girl, and noted on the expense form that the daughters accompanied her to "open the start of the Iron Dog race." The children and their mother then watched as Todd Palin and other racers started the competition, which Todd won that year.

business as "First Family official starter for the start of the Iron Dog The Palins began charging the state for commercial flights after the governor kept a 2006 campaign

Palin later had the relevant expense

forms changed to describe the girls'

promise to sell a jet bought by her predecessor. Palin put the jet up for sale on eBay, a move she later trumpeted in her star-making speech at the Republican National Convention, and it was ultimately sold by the

state at a loss. That left only one highperformance aircraft deemed safe enough for her to use a 1980 twinengine King Air assigned to the public safety agency but, according to flight logs, out of service for maintenance and repairs about a third of

the time Palin has been governor.

India launches

below the surface.

FROM PAGE 16

"You're seeing India lifting its sights," Pace said. While much of the technology involved in reaching the moon has not changed since the Soviet Union and the U.S. did it more than four decades ago, analysts say new mapping equipment allows the

exploration of new areas, including

India plans to use the 3,080-

pound lunar probe to create a highresolution map of the lunar surface and the minerals below. Two of the mapping instruments are a joint project with NASA. Over the last year, Asian nations have taken the lead in moon exploration. In October 2007, Japan sent

up the Kaguya spacecraft. A month later, China's Chang'e-1 entered lunar orbit. Those missions took highresolution pictures of the moon, but are not as comprehensive as Chandrayaan-1 will be or NASA's half-a-billion-dollar Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter scheduled to be launched next year, Pace said. The most comprehensive maps of the moon were made about 40

years ago during the Apollo era, he Beijing in 2003 became the first Asian country to put its own astronauts into space. It followed that last month with its first spacewalk.

More ominously, last year China

also blasted an old satellite into oblivion with a land-based antisatellite missile, the first such test ever conducted by any nation, including the United States and Russia. The Indian mission is not all about rivalry and prestige. Analysts

say India stands to reap valuable

rewards from the technology it

dence in difficult engineering and quality control. The US\$80 million mission will test systems for a future moon landing, with plans to land a rover on the moon in 2011 and eventually a manned space program, though this has not been autho-

rized yet. And the Indian space agency was already dreaming of more. "Space is the frontier for man-

agency spokesman S Satish.

develops and, according to Pace, it already shows increased confi-

kind in the future. If we want to go beyond the moon, we have to go there first," said Indian space

of preferences (GSP) to Bangladesh by the US, and over the fact that last year ready made garments export to the US markets amounted to more than \$3.27 billion. The subject of Kosovo also came up in the discussion, and the foreign adviser informed the ambassador that any decision regarding 'recogni-

Islamic countries'.

Iftekhar reportedly told Moriarty during the discussion. "The US is a good friend and I know it will always continue to be so, whoever comes to the governments in both our countries. We are also The turbulence on the stock and watching the election in the US with great interest, and there will also be changes in Bangladesh, but I expect

Desco to set

UNB, Dhaka

shedding in its command areas. According to a plan, the Desco

In view of the cash crunch in the

tee for final approval.

its members early this year. Following a court verdict

In May this year, the president

the power of a court under the Code of Civil Procedure to sum-The LGC will have the authority to investigate alleged financial and administrative irregularities in the local government bodies and to ask

response," he said.

The former army chief urged the parties or alliances.

Talking to The Daily Star on

said they have no plan to do that in

a few days. "We're not doing that because our test results of the eight brands differed from that of the Dhaka

University chemistry department,' Asked why they are not disclosing the test results of other brands, he said he doubts whether people

of milk powder brands tested by them, the DG declined to disclose the number. Of the eight brands the DU chemistry department found

formulas. Those three brands were in the pipeline for registration. And there are 46 other brands of registered infant formulas," an official of the Institute of Public Health and Nutrition told The Daily Star.

drawn from the market, AP reported yesterday quoting Taiwan's health minister. Minister Yeh Ching-chuan said

Switzerland based company.

I would not have believed Hawa Bhaban existed," he said. Ghani, however, mentioned

He said he thinks that the Election Commission's initiative to bring qualitative changes in politics will not succeed. About his presence in the controversial meeting of the BNP Standing Committee at party

cussed a few issues, I told them that the meeting had not been convened properly. But we were asked